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18 July 1957

W Balloon Gen'l

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Progress Report for
the Month of June, 1957.

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Dear Sir:

Work on the [] Low Altitude Project was started again on June 17, 1957. This project was allocated an additional \$70,609 to cover estimated costs during the remainder of the current term of the contract.

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A special order of ten paper drop units was made ready for [] involving a 50-pound paper bundle and a bellows-actuated descent switch to open up the bundle at 20,000 feet. Each unit was checked and calibrated in our pressure altitude chamber. A [] picked the ten units up [] on June 13. During his one hour stay, we instructed him on the adjustment and arming of the ten units. Forty more units are now being assembled for his use.

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[] personnel dismantled the target drop gondola of [] project and sent the gondola body, the two Lox systems, ballast system, ballast, drag rope, cold weather gear, etc. to [] (via [] truck) to Sequoro, New Mexico, on June 12. This equipment is expected to be returned to [] by July 1.

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I completed the long awaited hangar studies report and readied it for printing and assembly. Your office may expect five copies of this report during the first week of July.

Construction was started on a new fiberglass aircraft seat for [] similar to the one used on the Task "Easy" Florida flights. Requests were received from [] to conduct tests on a new shroud supplied by him

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and also to conduct tethered tests on a 302p balloon system. These tests are to take place during the latter part of July.

Task "Baker" - Hot Air Program

Work on Project "Hot Air" for the month of June 1957 consisted of analysis of data from full scale balloon tests conducted at the Hippodrome in March 1957. This included an experimental heat balance. A theoretical heat balance was calculated for a two hour flight and over-all heat transfer coefficients were determined for several balloon barrier configurations including a double wall plain poly balloon barrier. An investigation was made to determine that the fuel tank heater could be replaced with an expansion valve.

Task "Charlie" - Target Drops

Due to the gondola and its associated equipment being sent to Sequoia, N. M. during early part of June no progress can be reported as far as the second high-altitude target drop flight is concerned. As stated above, the hanger studies report was submitted to your office at the end of June.

Task "Hotel" - [redacted] Target Release System

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Intent was shown by [redacted] to reopen and finish the work started on this task in February.

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